

TRALENTINES ZINE

♥ 2022 ♥

Created
by

Rudy
Tomala



Happy Valentines Day everyone!

I hope everyone had a lovely day filled with things that make them happy and feel loved!

I want to say a big thank you to all the amazing artists that submitted their work for the first volume of Tralentines! Each submission was truly amazing and it was wonderful to see trans love represented in so many different forms. Please consider supporting the artists by sharing this zine with folks you think will enjoy it and following them on their socials!

- Rudy



Blue, he/him

Love Note, 2022, digital illustration

I really adore drawing trans people simply existing and being in love, especially Indigenous trans people. A lot of depictions of trans and Indigenous people only focus on our pain and hardships, and forget to show our joy and happiness. I love depicting us being happy and comfortable in our existences. Drawing trans bodies is very therapeutic for me, and I love putting pieces of myself and my experiences into my art.

@datbluebean on Instagram & Tiktok.

Billet-Doux to an Aquarius

An empty shell
Vibrating, beating it's white swirls into pulse
Calls out to me in our shared tongue
I knelt in the sand
Before the fogged glass of that Goodwill
Begging time to take me back

Your glance
Promised me much longer than an eternity
Spent curled on dusty pink, olive velvet
In our house of windows
Too distant in memories of the future

With you I had memories of that which never happened

The summer birch trees
Dressed in green so tart it makes my lips smack
Branches, freckled limbs
Spank me
Choke me
Bruise me
Grunting a smile, your fingers in my open mouth
I like the pain you inflict when we fuck
As if finding pleasure there could show me how
To embrace the heartbreak I sit waiting for

Aydan, they/he/she

Billet-Doux to an Aquarius, poetry

I started writing poetry recently after ravenously consuming works by Billy-Ray Belcourt, Ocean Vuong, Joy Harjo, and other indigenous and queer kin. Their words helped me to feel less alone in this time of uncertainty and flux; both globally in the midst of this ongoing pandemic, and individually in the anticipation of my medical transition. It is a new art form for me but my message as an artist remains the same; my works are a plea to be seen by and act as a mirror for my trans, queer, 2spirit, indigenous kin, and to shout into the colonial void that we are still here, and we will keep dreaming and loving and fighting for a world of mutual care and respect. My work does not always directly have to do with being a trans 2spirit person, but it has to do with my love, my longing, my loss, my life, and is therefore a work of trans 2spirit love, longing, loss, and life.

@eboybimbo on Instagram



Felix, they/them

Trans Magic, 2022, collage

This work is about trans magic and self love. Being trans can be such a spiritual and magical experience, that's how I've been feeling lately. This is also a self portrait, with my acne 'stars'. I'm slowly learning to love myself and becoming more grateful for the unique perspective I have of the world.

@flourboyfelix



Rob, he/him

Happy Valentine's Gay, 2022, digital illustration

RobLikesToDoDraw is an artist and illustrator based in Bath, UK.

His work often includes bright colours, bold patterns and hand-drawn illustration.
Sometimes he also does stuff a bit like this.

Instagram: @roblikestodraw, Etsy: roblikestodrawshop



Kate Granholm, they/them

Be Mine?, digital illustration

This piece is a whole bunch of ideas thrown together: I started off with doodling flirty cherubs and went from there. I wanted to create an illustration that would work when turned upside down and that evolved into a playing card. It wasn't intentional but the ace of hearts is a bit of a sneaky nod to my identity as an asexual person.

I'm currently doing a BA in Illustration at Edinburgh College of Art and my practice is a little bit of everything, although lately it's been a lot of digital work. I'm most interested in graphic mark-making, whether that be through traditional printmaking or digital drawing. I'm also part of a queer zine collective (G*NDERSHIT), which I've been enjoying making prints for.

Instagram: @katesartthings



Kyle Lucas, xe/him

Tender, 2021, digital illustration

This piece features two characters of mine who are both gay trans men. I simply wanted to capture a tender domestic moment between two trans lovers. The two of them live in a small cave and live off of the land together. Its so important for trans men to be allowed to explore queerness in the same way our cis counterparts are. I wanted to do my part in representing that. Trans men loving other men is beautiful. It needs to be explored through artistic media so much more than it currently is. This piece also serves to challenge toxic masculinity in my mind. Malachi and Eden are both very strong men yet they are capable of such tenderness. Men should be allowed to explore this concept so much more than they are in today's society. You can be strong and tender. That is what i wish to portray with my art.

Instagram: @t4p3w0rmz.n.f4ngz, Redbubble: t4p3w0rmz



Duckie, he/him

My Gay Little Heart, rug wall hanging

This work is representative of me being gay, and my gay little heart. T4T gay love is so important to me and is a source of joy that underlies my life. This work celebrates that feeling in a visual representation. The usage of rug hooking as a medium is important in translating my love and joy beyond just an image, it's an image that you can touch and feel and be physically comforted by. This is an unambiguous celebration of queer love and joy.

Instagram: @duckie.brand, Etsy: duckiebrand



places where I've hugged my trans friends:

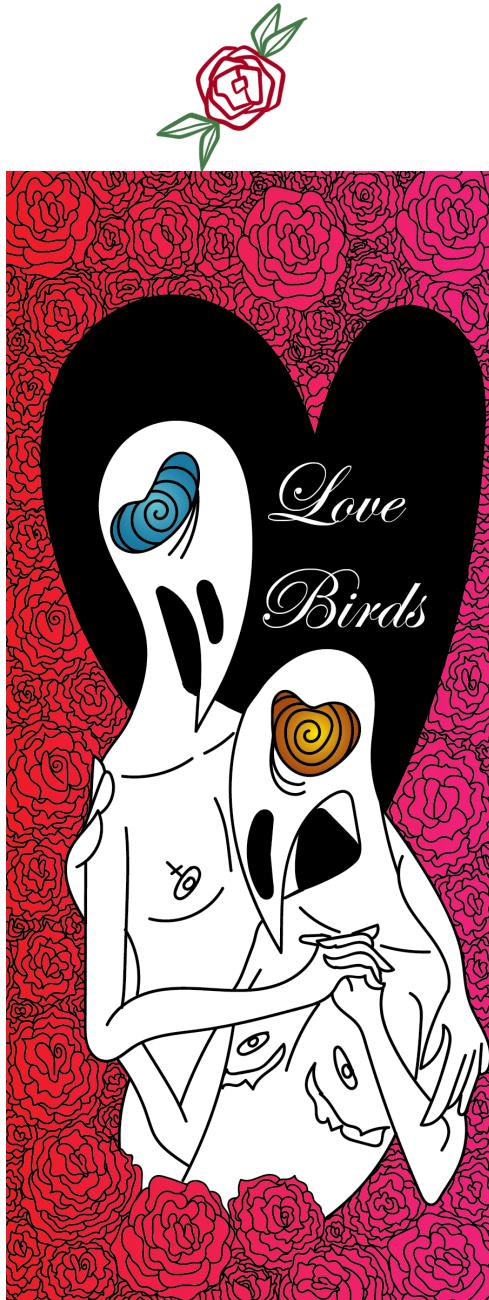
- at a picnic along the Seine
- in way too many German cities somehow and I'm not even German?
- after a Moulin Rouge! fan show at a convention - in various parks - at the feminist library
- at some concert in rural Luxembourg - in airport terminals - in so many train stations
- in gay bars
- in their living room after a meal they cooked for me
- in another living room after their brother tried to forcibly kiss me
- in my bed
- in their bed
- in art museums
- at Pride marches
- in the subway before jumping out of the car, it's my station, see you soon I hope
- at the university blockade
- in Brussels before we started dating - in Brussels when we were dating - in Brussels after we dated and before we lost contact forever
- under blooming trees
- in my daydreams
- in my actual dreams
- through text messages and blurry face times
- at so many places, how could I even remember them all, all I can remember is I love you I love you I love you, in my arms and in my heart, oh my sweet sweet trans friends and one night lovers and romantic partners and unknown faces in the street, a thousand words could never be enough to tell you how much it means to me to know and share such a boundless love, so I hope this hug will do

Dino K, they/them

Places where I've hugged my trans friends, 2022, poem

Dino k is a white French agender and overall very queer poet and songwriter, with a main focus on anxieties, love in all its forms, anger, and softness. Their art is a way to process their feelings and create a temporary escape from reality for them and hopefully others. After a MA in French-German Intercultural Studies and soon a MA in Artistic Direction of European Cultural Projects, they work to support artists, especially ones with marginalized identities.

Instagram: @dino.kart



Milos Main, they/he

Love Birds, 2022, digital illustration

This design shows two bird-like creatures with scars on their chests holding onto each other, surrounded by a plethora of roses. The symbolism of the birds lies in the shape of the heads of the creatures. I used the concept of a bird skull to bring this forward more abstractly rather than just drawing two bird heads onto humans. The scars on the chests of the creatures represent specifically trans masculine individuals. The creatures are supposed to be two trans masculine individuals who are in love. That's where the roses come in, the flower that symbolizes love and romance. I found that they were the best flower to use in the background due to the ease of making them look graphic, and the symbolism was most promising for the piece. Overall, the work is a representation of two trans lovers, singing their song of romance as lovebirds do.

Instagram and Twitter: @dissociationdude



Florian Mae, they/he

Sal(i)vation pt. I, 2022, photography

I could tell you what this piece is about in many more words, I could cite studies on queer theory and the queer themes of Interview with a Vampire (1994) or delve deep into why I find Catholic iconography so fucking sexy, but I won't. Instead, I'll say that I made this because I wanted to, because it turned me on, because I desired it. Desire is the force that leads my life and my art, and at its core sal(i)vation is about desire. In my own way, this piece is a love letter to t4t love, my partner and all the queer freaks in my life.

Instagram: @florian.lh.art



The lovers

You once told me that our world has a
definitive ending
And that the chances of us being here now are 1
in 4 trillion

That we are made of atoms, stars and
everything that has come before us

I thank the stardust within your bones for that
miracle every single day
Grateful for that extraordinary privilege to
share this existence beside you

To be loved by you
To be held equal like specked constellations in
the night sky, entwined as one

For H

Jaydan Alexander, he/him

Jaydan Alexander (He/Him) is a multidisciplinary artist and Fine Art graduate who has explored a multitude of themes that all stem from his own lived experiences as a transgender male, a member of the LGBT community, a mental health sufferer, suicide survivor and as a 'born-again' baptised Christian.

His interests lie within exploring sociological issues such as gender roles and inequalities, mental health struggles with particular attention paid to anxiety, depression and trauma; He uses his own experiences with the hopes to use his microscopic individual experiences/emotions to shed a light on the macro-cosmic and universal issues many others face in their day to day lives. His work does not seek to shed a light on these topics to gain sympathies but to remind viewers to have empathy and compassion for one another.

Instagram: @jaydanaalexanderart, website: JaydanAlexander.co.uk



Sam MacLeod, he/him

Butch4Butch, 2021, lino print

This piece is a celebration of the love shared between two people who see each other fully in who and what they are. The beauty and heat of fully trusting in their transcendence of any binary. Not removing identity from the equation, but instead reveling in it. In the experience of sharing their full selves, and in allowing expression in whatever form is desired. Affirming who they are to their cores by allowing themselves to take up space however they want to, and providing that space for one another. Guarding it; protecting it. Abandoning any façade, just sharing complete acceptance and love, and dedication to pleasure. Empowerment in the softness that makes them who they are, giving purpose to their masculinity. The joy of mutual vulnerability and safety, allowing themselves to exist fully in the moment. The ability to just *be*.

Instagram: sesame_macleod



Coco Raymond, they/them

The Lovers, 2021, underglaze pencil and underglaze watercolour on low-fire ceramic

This piece is a love letter to sapphic joy, fat love, and the safety of t4t relationships. Fat queer love and trans sapphics are holy and deserve to be celebrated as such. The clay bottle is handbuilt, the watercolor is handpainted, and the design is done in underglaze pencil, lending an intentional softness and intimacy to the piece. “The Lovers” blurs the line between celestial and beautifully ordinary, heaven and home, as all queerness does.

Instagram: @coco_clay, Website: www.coco-clay.com



Ben Saunders, he/him

Queer Love is Beautiful, 2022, lino print

This print comes from a wider series I recently produced of lino prints of queer couples. All of the reference images for these prints are from real queer couples who generously submitted photos for me to use, to capture queer life and beauty in an honest way. This series of prints shows a range of relationships, with some of the models being in polyamorous or t4t relationships, I wanted to show that all queer love is beautiful, whichever way you show it. This is my first large series of lino prints as my usual prints are often digital hand drawn illustrations of queer and trans bodies. I love focussing my artwork on queerness, whether that's our bodies, sexuality or relationships, because I just think there's something beautiful in being able to finally see yourself reflected back and celebrated in a positive, euphoric way.

Instagram: @bensaunders.art, Etsy: BenSaundersArt



Sylvie Whitfield, they/them

Another Day, 2021, digital illustration

Existing in a world so sure of itself, full of confidence and segmentations, proves difficult as a worm. A soft, vulnerable creature, anxious for reassurance, conflicted by the desire to be different and the fear of never feeling connected. In my work I create creatures and beings that are unloved, feared and cause disgust to many; I suppose they could all be self portraits. A look into the discomforts of gender, mental illness paired with the openness of growth, self awareness and gentle melancholy. Love the unloved, I screech, whilst only half loving myself.

'Another Day' is a piece about heavy love; the love that hurts, the love that burdens, the promise of love you can't fulfill, yet having the gentle determination to keep it with you, kicking from puddle to puddle. One day, it may be lighter.

Instagram: @snail.tears, Twitter: @snail_tears, Etsy: snailtears



Pluto, they/them, Micah, any pronouns

Gender Intimacy, 2022, digital collage of polaroid photographs

This work represents how we show love to each other as trans people. We support each other in exploration and expression of our individual identities and give each other the room to fully grow into our self concepts.

We used an fujifilm instax polaroid camera in order to create a sense of intimacy between the viewer and the subject. We did this to capture moments of our own intimacy with each other where we are at home, in a space where we feel safe to experience our gender identities together. We chose the actions in the photos to showcase simple acts of gender self care performed by the partner as an act of love. By capturing these moments and sharing them with a wider trans community, we extend the act of gender self care and the safe space to practice it to our trans siblings who might not have such a space for themselves.

Instagrams: @plutohorror, @2amwake upcall, Website: 2amwake upcall.com



K O'Rourke, they/them

Haircut, 2021, ink on paper

With this piece I wanted to commemorate the relationship between myself and my boyfriend. Since moving in together about 4 months before the pandemic began, we have had the luxury of endless time to spend with each other. We have made each other meals, put cream on each other's eczema, and cut each other's hair an infinite amount of times. The photo this illustration was drawn from is special to me - it demonstrates how completely un-spectacular my being trans is in our relationship. It isn't an obstacle to overcome, it isn't something he pats himself on the back for accepting, I am not loved *in spite* of my transness. It's just our reality, and he shows that every day by washing the dishes and cutting my hair.

Instagram: @kirstyorourkeart, Shop: kirstyorourke.com



Julian Lawrence, he/they

I should read more gay poets, 2022, mixed media collage

I believe in defining my queer identity on the joy it brings me rather than the suffering society inflicts upon me for challenging the heteropatriarchy. But taking pride in my identity as a gay man has so far proven to be challenging. The healing power of gay love, at least at 22, is hard to come by - get ready for feeling objectified, lonely, dirty, held hostage by your own desires, which seem to only bring you heartache. These experiences are oddly affirming, because they are so ubiquitous amongst gay men. But feeling some perverse pride in them still makes me worried I am appropriating something. Does my life imitate the Richard Siken poems I read as a boy because they rang true or because I make it so? Does my existence as a gay trans man "fetishise gay men"? Does it matter? Through this piece I have tried to learn to let go of policing my own desires.

Instagram: @patroclus.incarnate



I don't think that i'm a boy

I know i've made mistakes that that boys do,

I know i have an anger,

nurtured from one quarter of a century

of being told that boys don't cry.

I know that my mistakes are mine alone,

that my bones sit bleached in a flat chested body

full of every error that i've ever made,

and i *feel* that.

I feel that pressed against my lungs,

these meat sponges holding primal screams,

screams that say that i am not a man,

and never asked to be one.

I don't think i am a boy,

I don't think the binary can hold me,

I don't believe i'm stuck like this,

I don't believe the truths they told me.

I am a human lasagne, layers of gender and failure and fury.

of Enya, never ending orinoco flow

and i sail away without judgement,

I will be my own jury.

I don't know what the verdict is,

what turns i'll find as i traverse

the truth of who i am

But I hold my own hands

and i am ready.

(i don't think i am a boy)

Tom Stockley / T.S IDIOT, they/them

I Don't Think I Am a Boy. 2021, found photography and poem

Tom Stockley is a queer punk poet, artist and community worker. They work across disciplines to make work that reflects the balance of beauty and sadness they find in every day life – often exploring themes of sexuality, identity, mental health and community.

Instagram: @tstheidiot, Website: tomstockley.weebly.com



Jasper Giddings, he/him

Date Night, 2022, 35mm black and white analogue photograph

Jasper Giddings is a Pittsburgh, PA-based transmasculine, disabled, elder leatherqueer who, using analogue and digital photography, attempts to find moments of stillness from behind and beyond a camera's lens. This piece, *Date Night*, seeks to honor Queer BDSM and Leather Culture signifiers, which are a visual representation of the community's sexual, personal, political, and gender identities. The photograph celebrates transgressive love and sexual practices within intimate personal and communal queer connections.

His work can be found in the first issue of Phoenix of Alexandria's *Rivets: A Queer Literary Collective* at: <https://phoenixofalexandriapgh.squarespace.com/publications>, as well as being featured in the Trans/gender Expression Haven's *Queer Digital Intimacies* exhibition at: <https://thehaven.lgbt/>.

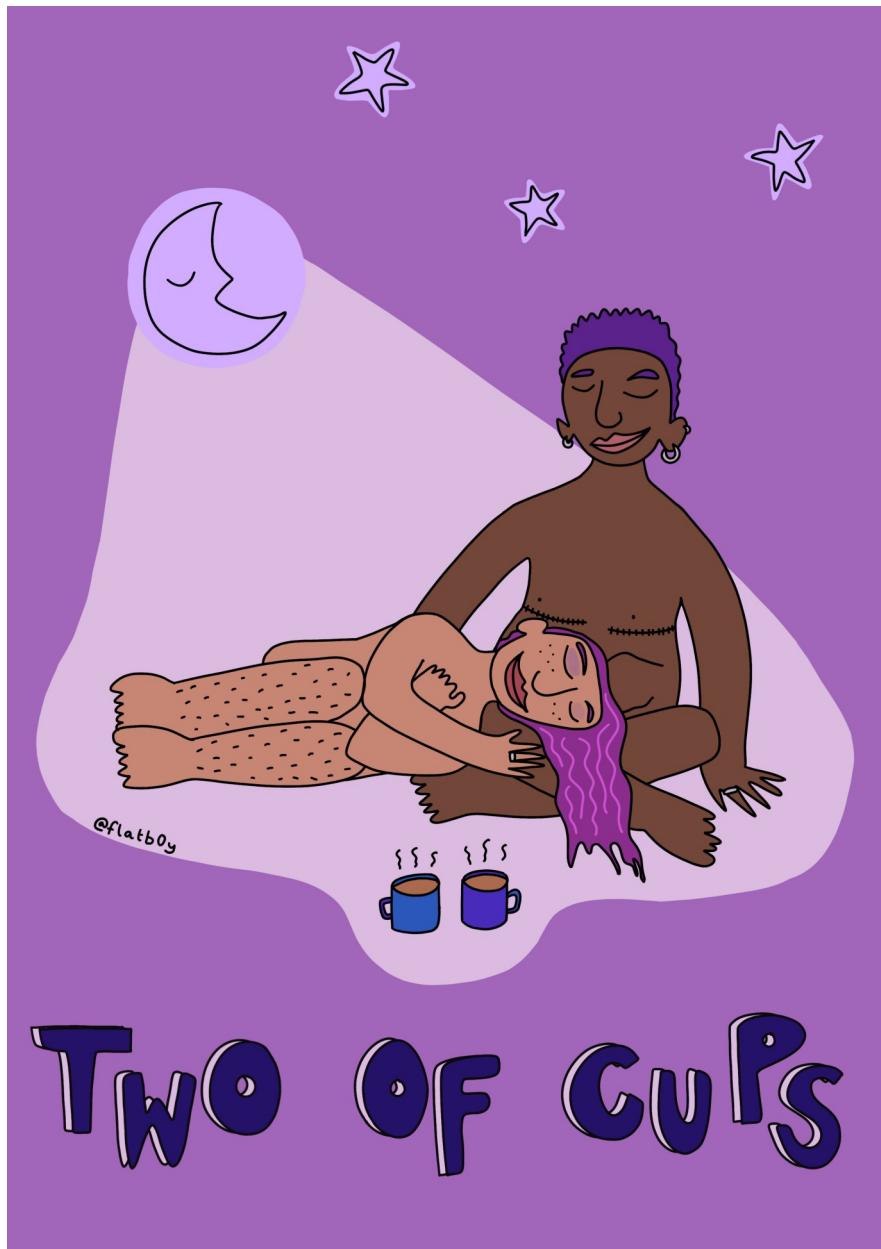
Instagram: @jasper.elgee



Xander Jasper, it/they/he

Self Care in the City, digital illustration

Always looking for that safe space is hard and mentally draining. I finally found mine in a place where I can't stay. Only a few days at a time am I allowed to be home. I hope that one day that I can actually live in my safe space. A place where I can make my own and decorate that way I want with no restrictions or unwanted roommates. Just me and my partner and our pets. Being able to look for that future is self-care and self-love, being able to realistically work for it and know that one day it might happen. For the future I want, I will love myself, or at least my future self.



Flatboy, they/them

Two of Cups, 2022, digital illustration

In tarot, the two of cups is the card of unified, unconditional love and compassion. It is the card of T4T, of chosen family, of queer community. It is the card that my partner and I drew when we were first dating. Here I try to capture the softness, comfort and unity that the two of cups signifies for me. Under the light of the moon two lovers and friends share a moment of tenderness and some cups of tea.

Instagram: @flatb0y, Etsy: ArtByFlatboy



06-28-21

My dear and loving Marbles, I so appreciated the polymer ring holder, as I appreciate all the ways (big and small) you positively impact my life. It's definitely something to reflect on as tomorrow will be 6 months we've spent dedicating our love to one another. I love showing you how much I appreciate you, but all my efforts couldn't possibly communicate the reality. You say you're always working toward the goal of making me smile, and I wholeheartedly believe you not only because I trust you (and your work ethic) completely, but also because you are so good at making me happy. Happier than I knew was possible for me to be, I smile more now than ever before and I look forward to a promising future with you.

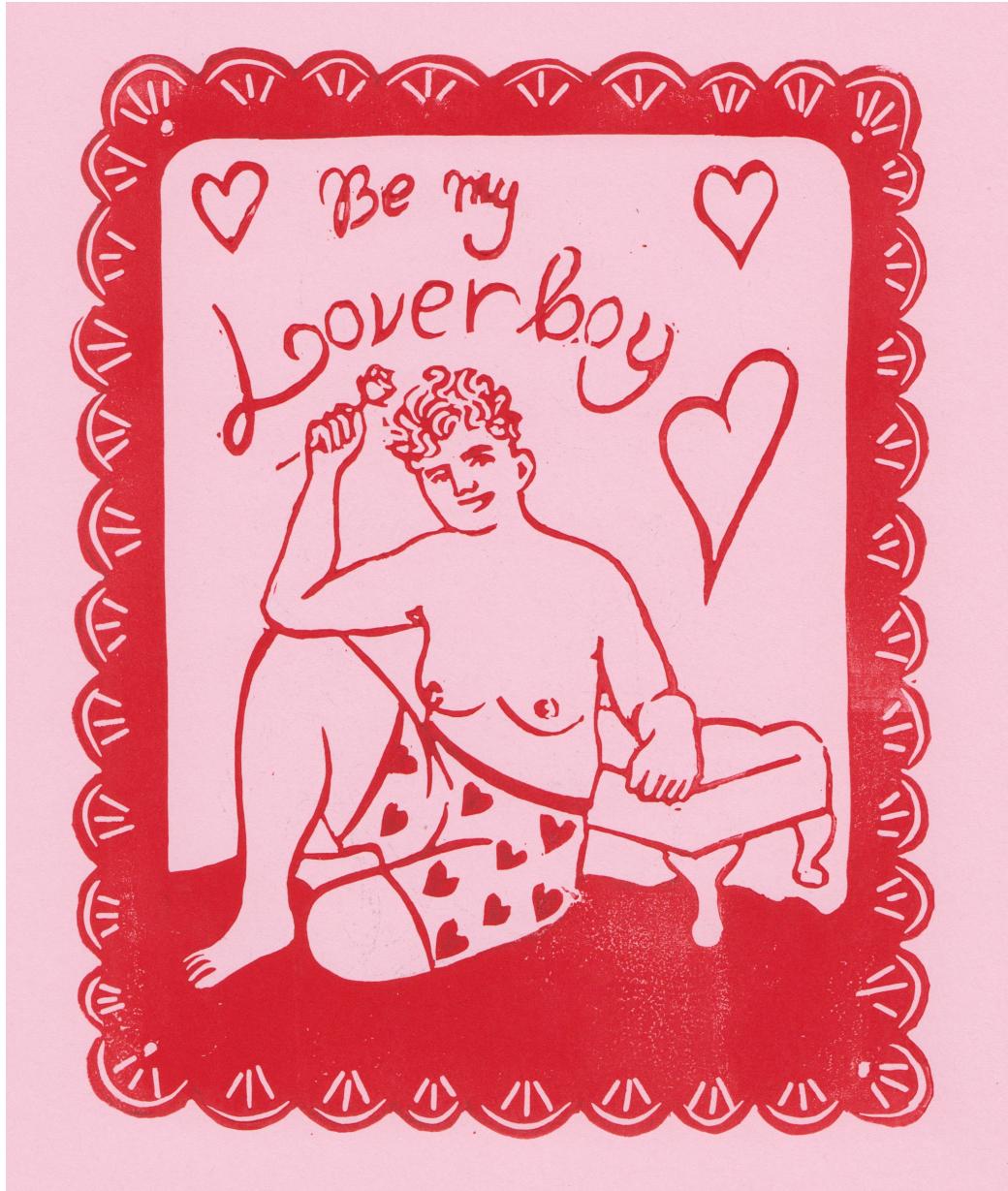
I want to dedicate time to showing you my appreciation right now. Thank you for happily making me food and drinks whenever you can, literally taking care of me - nourishing my body and soul. Thank you for being my equal, for noticing and appreciating the ways we're different for committing to working together to solve any problems that come up. Thank you for your honesty and willingness to be open and share it. Thank you for always happily giving me reassurance I need, and for letting me know what you need to build a happy, sound home together. Thank you for being the one I want to trust, want to love, want to comfort, want to have, and to hold - Thank you for being my marbles. THANK YOU for the past 6 months! I love you. Blue

Frankie Star Haus, he/him

Thank You for Six Months, 2021, pen on card

I am a transmasculine nonbinary person (Frankie or Blue, he/him) in love with another nonbinary person (Mars or Marbles, ey/em). We recently had our 1 year anniversary, and upon seeing the Trans Love Zine idea, I wanted to submit a card I wrote em for our 6 months together. I chose this work because I don't know what else best illustrates trans love for me. The piece is incredibly intimate and candid. I am a multimedia artist, and this piece was a simple trans flag-colored card I decided to draw on for my beloved as a celebratory gift six months ago. I covered both of our chests as a symbol of our planned top surgeries, and I felt it was beautiful to have the colors of our flag surrounding us in an intimate embrace.

Instagram: @frankie.haus, @queerringhaus



AL, they/them

Loverboy, 2022, lino print, red ink on pink paper

A while ago I was searching for valentine's cards to send to my girlfriend, and I quickly realised that I wasn't going to find any cards that I felt represent our relationship. So I decided to make a card for them myself, featuring a butch lesbian but also cute and pink and valentine's themed.

Instagram: @rejka, Shop: rejka.bigcartel.com



Grayson Cooper, he/him/they

T4T Love, 2021, digital illustration

I'm a queer, trans masculine artist attending the Columbus College of Art and Design where I major in illustration. I am currently starting work on my senior thesis which is themed around trans love and trans bodies. The trans experience is something which is incredibly precious to me and I enjoy creating work depicting trans joy and the beauty that is the trans body.

Instagram, Tumblr, TikTok: @astroidart



IN WHICH WE DISCOVER OUR HEARTS AREN'T THE SAME BUT COMPATIBLE NONETHELESS

I thought I knew what love was, what it felt like
Until I rested my head on your legs
and the princess bride played on the bed
When your face lit up, 'cause I told you I liked it
that's when I learnt what a love you choose is

The other day I slipped my name in your pocket
gently, scared it would break
and you didn't even need to take a second look to say it
And once you whispered to me that there was
a different set of pronouns you'd rather use
but it was too big to say aloud
so we talked about something else instead

Around then I realized your presence doesn't require energy
that when I'm around you the excuses for myself disappear
Instead, together, we revel in our emotions
for better or for worse things pour out of me around you

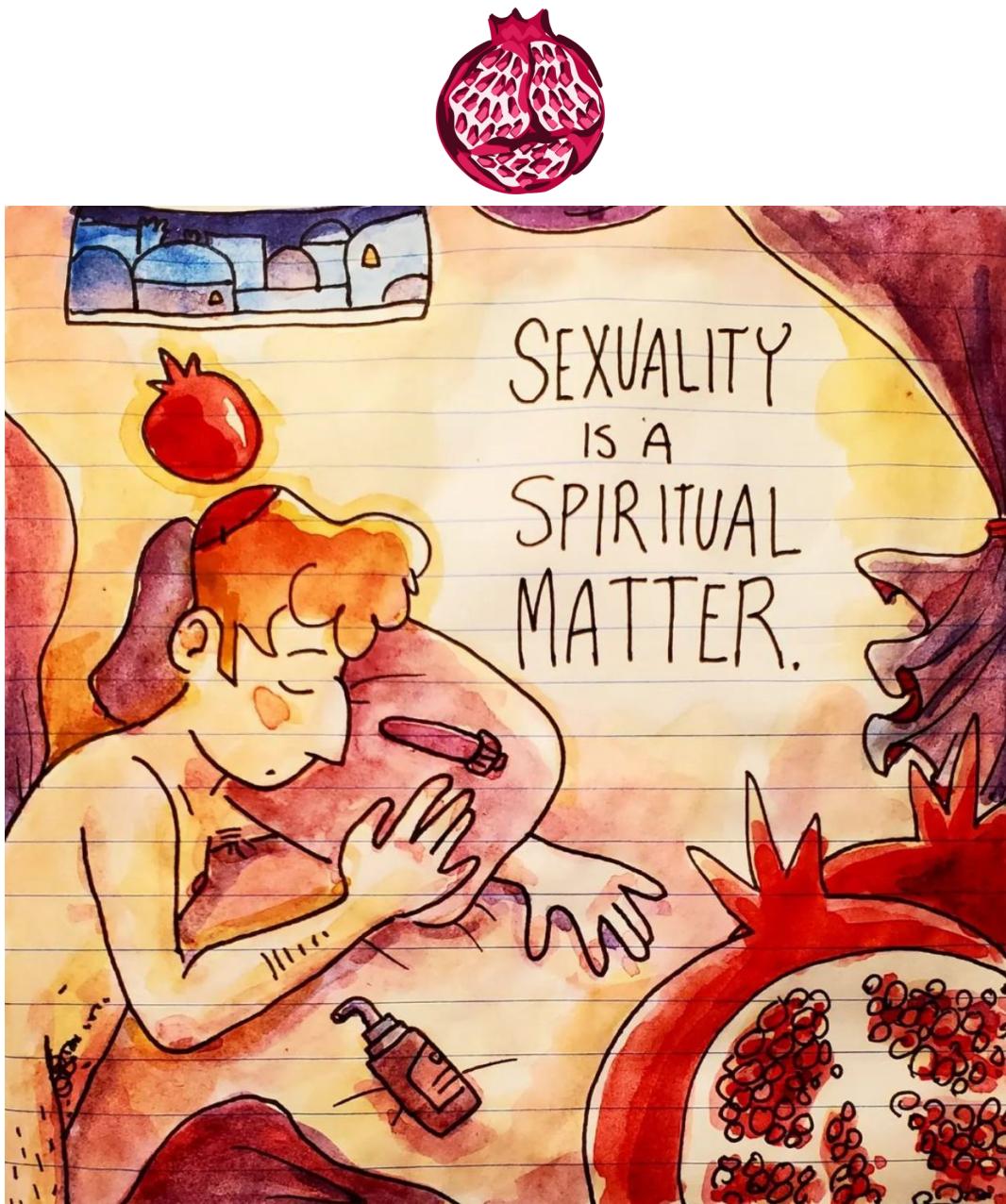
With you I feel like myself
I embody my own desires
and stop tucking back into myself
to hide what I look like
With you I feel chosen, and with you I choose this love

Mars A, they/them

In Which We Discover Our Hearts Aren't the Same but Compatible Nonetheless, 2022, digital

Here I chose to write about platonic love – about a person who is very dear to me and whom I have (and continue to) discovered lots of things about myself with. These past few months I've been unlearning my assumptions surrounding a-mat-onormativity, especially about different relationships' intrinsic values, and writing poetry about my friendships has been one of my favourite ways to think about these topics.

Tumblr: breathingintheash



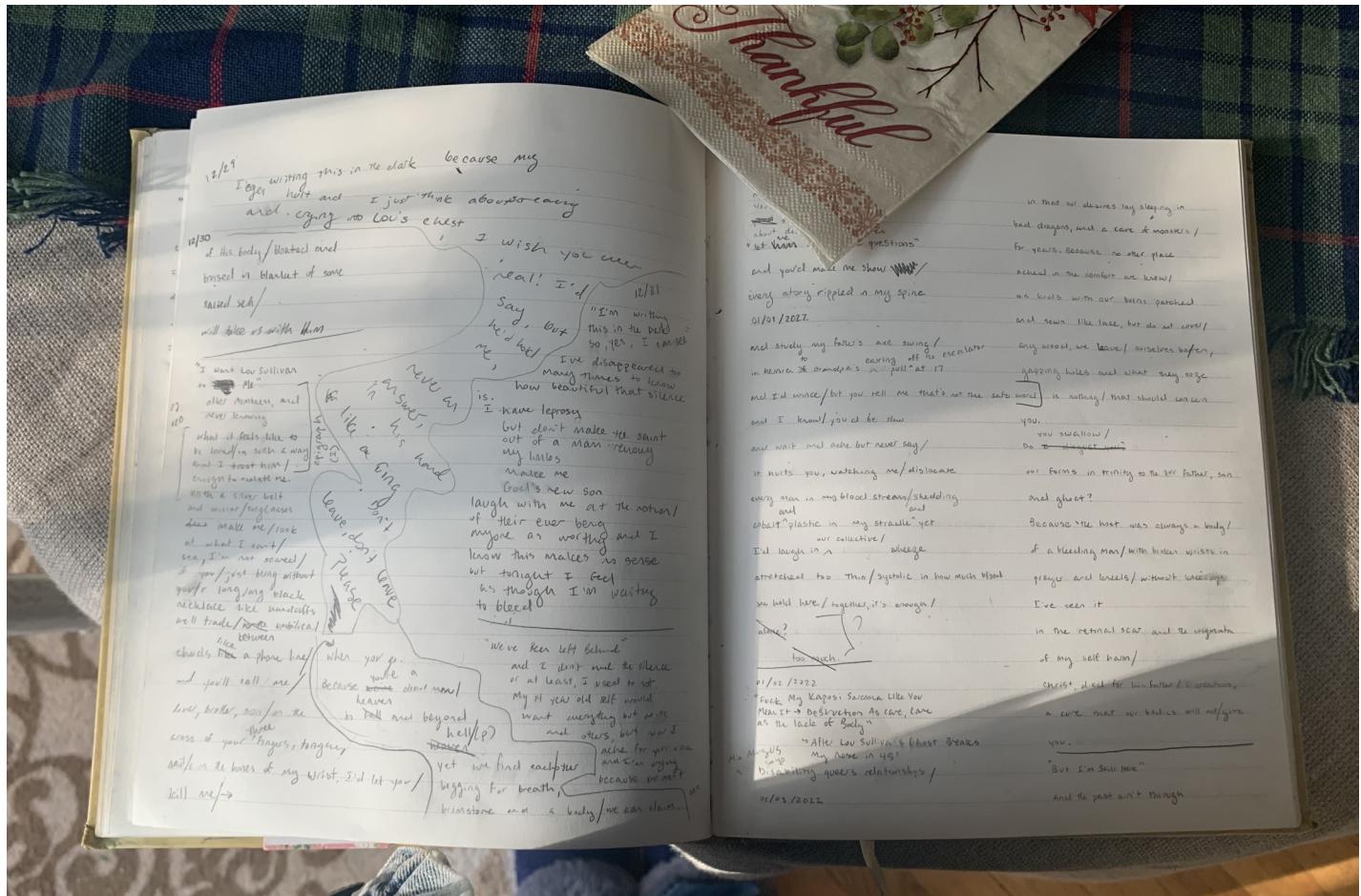
Rena Yehuda Newman, they/them

Our Souls Chose These Bodies and These Desires, 2021 // 5782.

Illustration

In a world that tells us that there is something wrong with our desires, fighting shame is a pretty powerful act. Our souls chose these bodies. They were so excited to have them. So much of today's queer and transgender narrative focuses on a very specific kind of body hatred. Because we don't look or want or fuck like them, it's too easy to internalize the notion that the problem lies in the site of our bodies. I feel it often: that my body is defective, unwanted, defunct. But the opposite is true. To every trans and queer person who has been told that shame should be the primary relationship to our bodies, please know: Our souls chose these bodies, wanted them, cherish them. These bodies are blessings discovered and rediscovered each day, through transition and revelation. Our sexualities are a spiritual matter. There is everything right with you.

Instagram: @rena.yehuda, Gumroad: renayehuda



Glik, he/ze

The Pearls of Your Long, Long Black Necklace are a Ball Gag, poetry, 2021-2022

Written in my poetry journal, these frantic attempts at contact demonstrate not only the love, but desire that lies among and between trans* mascs, beyond time and death. I've been reading *We Both Laughed In Pleasure*, a collection of Lou Sullivan's diaries and it's brought up a lot of complicated emotions. What I originally thought was mourning, turned out to be heartbreak as I love a man who I never knew, and most significantly, who is dead. So like any scorned lover, I'm left with moments crafted only in my head. Moments of tenderness that come out of an ache. It is, yes, a form of love, and kinship, that ultimately, I can only thank him for.

Instagram: @gideonglik

Thank you so much everyone.

Love,

Rudy